

Occupancy Reduction Strategies for the Near Term

Updated June 5, 2020

GSA recommends continuing to maximize telework for employees who can do their jobs effectively at home. For job functions that cannot continue to be performed via full-time telework, consider one or more of the following <u>occupancy reduction strategies</u> for sharing workspace safely:

- Assign seating when possible and avoid sharing workstations.
- Avoid seating staff face-to-face.
- Use no more than every other workstation. If your agency uses a booking system to reserve workstations, remove unavailable workstations from the reservation system. Remove or cordon off unavailable workstations.



- Bring employees back in groups. A few examples:
 - Group X comes to the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Group Y comes to the office Tuesday and Thursday. Groups X and Y occupy alternate desks.
 - Use shift-work schedules to limit the number of staff in the office and common areas at the same time.
 - Stagger weeks that staff must report to the office. Group A reports to the office daily for the
 first week, then teleworks for three weeks. Group B reports to the office the second week,
 and so forth for Groups C and D. Have each group use a new set of workstations to limit
 use of the same desk within a 7-day period.
 - Have teleworkers schedule days they need to be in the office. Number workstations 1–5 (or 1–7, if your agency has a weekend shift). Only workstations marked as #1 would be available on Mondays, #2 on Tuesdays, and so forth. This keeps workstations from being used by multiple people within a 7-day period.
- Ensure desks are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before a new person uses the area.
- Enforce a clean desk policy so staff and cleaning crews can thoroughly disinfect surfaces.

If you don't know where to start, GSA's <u>Total Workplace Program</u> can provide your agency with access to contract design assistance and tools to optimize your workplace. If you need help evaluating long-term solutions or starting change management, or if you are ready to work with us, please contact us at <u>workplace@gsa.gov.</u>

